

**North Carolina Federation of Republican Men
6706 Queen Anne's Drive
Raleigh, NC 27613**

January 9, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

As a small businessman who depends upon Microsoft for both my home and office computer, I am gratified that the federal government is now willing to settle its case against Microsoft. It is my sincere hope that Judge Kollar Kotelly will approve this settlement.

As State President of the North Carolina Federation of Republican Men, I represent many men, who, like me, lost money in my retirement account when tech stocks plummeted, an occurrence that is attributable the suit against Microsoft. I'm relatively young, and didn't have a tremendous amount of money to lose. I feel sorry for those who lost more.

As a former Legislative Liaison of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, I am all too aware that business can work in concert with, or in opposition to, government. I am aware of the tremendous cost to business that occurs when lawsuits are continually pursued. They drain resources and energy from employees that should be spent in other things. And lawsuits usually cost the taxpayers money. This one certainly has.

The reasons I have outlined are why I hope Judge Kollar Kotelly will accept the settlement and let all parties move forward. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,


Dee Stewart
State President